

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE

SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE OMNES, SOVIETS DURING BREZHNEV VISIT WILL BE MAINLY SEEKING CONFIRMATION OF THE CONTINUITY OF GISCARD'S POLICIES. NEW ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED DURING VISIT ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT. GISCARD MAY HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT IF HE AND BREZHNEV ARE TO ESTABLISH A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF DECEMBER 3, OMNES SAID THAT THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE WILL HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT: IT WILL BE A WORKING VISIT, WITH THE SOVIETS PREOCCUPIED WITH SIZING UP A NEW PRESIDENT AND SEEKING CONFIRMATION OF THE CONTINUITY OF HIS POLICIES.

2. SCHEDULE. BREZHNEV AND HIS PARTY WILL ARRIVE THE
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EVENING OF DECEMBER 4 AND THE TALKS WILL LAST 2 1/2

DAYS -- DECEMBER 5, 6 AND THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 7. GISCARD AND BREZHNEV WILL HAVE FOUR MEETINGS, THREE TETE-A-TETE. SESSIONS WILL BE ROUGHLY DIVIDED AMONG INTERNATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND LIBLATERAL ISSUES, WITH NO FIXED AGENDA. FRENCH EXPECT TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, INDOCHINA AND CSCE; FRENCH WILL ALSO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MBFR IF SOVIETS RAISE IT.

3. ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS. OMNES CONFIRMED THAT A NEW FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND A TEN-YEAR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED, AND WILL BE SIGNED DURING VISIT. GOF, HE SAID, WAS NOT EAGER FOR THESE AGREEMENTS. AFTER AGREEING TO NEGOTIATE THEM, FRENCH WANTED THEM SIGNED AT LOWER LEVEL BEFORE BREZHNEV VISIT. SOVIETS INSISTED, HOWEVER, ON SIGNING AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND FRENCH FINALLY GAVE IN. ACCORDING TO OMNES, AGREEMENTS ARE EXTREMELY GENERAL AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT.

4. ATMOSPHERE. OMNES COMMENTED THAT ATMOSPHERE IN FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS ON EVE OF VISIT IS GENERALLY GOOD, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS MUST BE WONDERING WHY INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI CHOSE RECENTLY TO REFER TO THE "FASJFOLC" CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, WHILE QUARRELING WITH JACQUES DUCLOS IN SENATE DEBATE.

5. OMNES NOTED THAT BEFORE VLADIVOSTOK IT WAS WIDELY PREDICTED THAT BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD WOULD GET ALONG WELL. IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT IF BREZHNEV AND GISCARD WILL PROVE PERSONALLY COMPATIBLE, GIVEN GISCARD'S PATRICIAN BACKGROUND AND HIS KNOWN DISLIKE OF EMOTION. OMNES IMPLIED THAT GISCARD WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT IF HE AND BREZHNEV ARE TO ESTABLISH A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.

6. OMNES SAID HE EXPECTS THAT GISCARD WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR IN 1975.
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